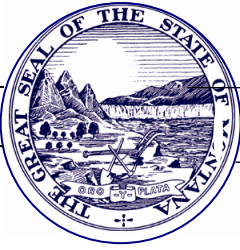


# MONTANA PUBLIC DEFENDER COMMISSION



BRIAN SCHWEITZER  
GOVERNOR

TARA VEAZEY  
CHAIR

## STATE OF MONTANA

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October 2, 2008

Dear Public Defender Staff and Contract Attorneys:

The Montana Public Defender Commission is eliciting your support as we head into the 2009 Legislative Session. As you know, the ability of the Office of the Public Defender to provide high quality, constitutionally adequate services and to fairly compensate its staff and contract attorneys depends in large part on the budget provided to the Agency by the Montana Legislature. As front-line attorneys providing representation to Montana's most vulnerable defendants, you are in the best position to explain the importance of an adequate budget to the Legislature. Your input, letters, phone calls, and testimony to Legislators will be more important than anything that the Commission Members or the Agency could present.

In preparation for the next Legislative Session, the Montana Public Defender Commission has created a Legislative Committee assigned with the primary task of analyzing existing or potential legislation likely to impact the Office. **We invite and encourage your participation on the Legislative Committee.** Our efforts can not be successful without your input and energy. We hope to have at least one representative of staff attorneys and one representative of contract attorneys who can report to, elicit from, and energize their colleagues to become an integral part of the Office's efforts at the 2009 Legislative Session.

If you are interested please call Harry Freebourn, the Agency's Administrative Director at 406-496-6084. The Legislative Committee will hold a meeting at the Yogo Inn in Lewistown on October 10 at approximately 9:00 a.m. The Committee intends to meet at least one more time before legislative budget hearings begin, and as necessary during the session.

Thank you for your consideration and for your tireless and important work on behalf of the indigent defendants in Montana.

Sincerely,

Tara Veazey, Chair